



Notes from the Director

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"GOOD NEWS" DEPARTMENT

We can't always rely on the media to report on the "good news" about intelligence. I noted, for example, a five-line item in a major newspaper last week recording the Senate's passage of the Intelligence Authorization Act of 1980 funding Intelligence Community operations—a bill on which so many of us have spent so much time. The headline read: "Senate Acts, And It's A Secret."

That's a catchy headline that may bring a smile or two, but it may also suggest something unsavory or deceitful to others. The fact is, however, that there was discussion of the bill on the floor of the Senate during which some of those Senators most knowledgeable of our activities said some significant things about us—none of which I have seen reported by the media.

I think what they said is important and should be encouraging to all of us. Let me summarize the highlights:

Senator Daniel K. Inouye (D, Hawaii), first chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (our Senate "oversight" committee which he described as "nonpartisan" and "believe it or not, according to our records, 97 percent of our votes have been unanimous"), said that the Committee's Budget Authorization Subcommittee had "conducted a detailed examination of the budget request" including "some 20 hours of hearings" at which I and other Intelligence Community officers appeared. He said our budget request "has been examined with the same degree of scrutiny as other Government programs." Senator Inouye told his colleagues:

"As a result of its detailed examination . . . the committee believes that, in general, intelligence continues to be well managed and responsive to U.S. policymakers' needs. Improvements are evident and no major shortcomings were uncovered . . ."

Senator Inouye cited some areas where he thought we could do better, including improving analysis and the coordination and tasking of intelligence collection activities, and we are working on those items. With regard to the role of intelligence, he declared:

"Intelligence fulfills two distinctly different but complementary roles in our society today. On one hand, intelligence is critical to our national defense . . . On the other hand, intelligence plays a major role in maintaining world peace . . ."

Senator Barry M. Goldwater (R, Arizona) said:

"The major point, however, which I think should be made here today is that regardless of what may happen with SALT, détente, and a host of other things, our intelligence functions will become increasingly important to the survival of our country. Those of us on the Intelligence Committee are becoming increasingly aware of the fact that this country is simply going to have to devote more resources to our intelligence community . . . our 'first line of defense.'

" . . . The biggest task that we in Congress face is to reverse the cart and horse position and put the horse of national need in front of the cart of budget restraint . . . in the perilous years ahead our 'eyes and ears' are going to become increasingly blind and deaf as we demand more and more information with less and less capability.

" . . . I doubt that there has ever been, in the history of the world, an intelligence organization that has received more abuse from people in Congress and from the press media of this country than have the intelligence agencies of this country. Having been exposed to the work of intelligence for a great many years of my life, I say without reservation that the intelligence-gathering ability of the United States is without equal in this world. . . .

" . . . I shall back the intelligence-gathering community with all that I have. They are doing a highly competent job, an increasingly competent job in a world that is getting extremely hard to gather intelligence in.

"So I hope that we shall see the end of the scurrilous attacks on the men and women who daily risk their lives in order that we may know a little bit more about where trouble lurks and when trouble might be hitting us. . . ."

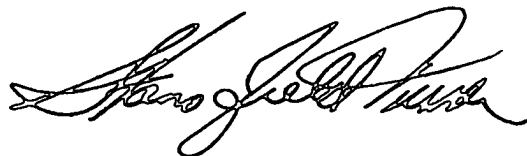
Echoing this theme, Senator Inouye said:

" . . . The intelligence community is deserving of our support. The attacks are not justified. All too often, whenever we receive our paper in the morning or in the afternoon, the front pages cover the news of failures of governments, failures of society or failures of human beings. In like manner, one never hears of the successes of the intelligence community. We who have been privileged to serve on this committee constantly are receiving reports of successes. Unfortunately, we cannot share these successes with the general public.

"As first chairman of this committee, I believe I am safe in saying that for every failure reported in the papers, there are at least 100 successes. If it were not for these successes, this country of ours would be, I would say in great jeopardy.

"Thanks to the intelligence community, their alertness and their dedication, I think we can sleep a bit more soundly in the evening."

You'll find these words in the *Congressional Record* of 20 June 1979. They may never make headlines, they may never lead to an increase in our intelligence budget, but I wanted to be sure you were aware of them. They should give all of us encouragement and inspiration as we go about our daily tasks as members of the Intelligence Community.



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Director